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Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1979BUENOS09424

Page: 1

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ADS-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-06 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00
SY-05 MCT-02 COM-02 SYE-00 FEMA-02 OPR-02 A-02
OC-06 CCO-00 WRD-01 ACDA-12 /113 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3187
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS

162159Z /15
ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(☒ Release) (☐ Excise) (☐ Deny)
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: (☐ In Part) (☒ In Full)
(☐ Classify as) (☐ Extend as) (☐ Downgrade to) _____
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 9424

E.O. 12065: GDS 11/16/85 (FRIEDMAN, TOWNSEND B.,) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJECT: (U) HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY - NOVEMBER 9-15

REF: BUENOS AIRES 9276

1. [REDACTED] TERRORISTS STRIKE AGAIN: ON NOVEMBER 13
TERRORISTS AGAIN STRUCK AT A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF
MINISTER MARTINEZ DE HOZ, KILLING HIS FRIEND AND
ADVISER FRANCISCO SOLDATI ALONG WITH SOLDATI'S
DRIVER. THREE OF THE TERRORISTS REPORTEDLY DIED
IN THE ATTACK. ANOTHER TWO WERE CAPTURED ALIVE,
BUT BADLY WOUNDED, ACCORDING TO CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES.
SUBSEQUENTLY, A COMMUNIQUE SIGNED "RAUL CLEMENTE
YAGER" (A MONTONERO LEADER) TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR
THE ATTACK AND VOWED THAT THE TERRORISTS WOULD

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EVENTUALLY KILL MARTINEZ DE HOZ. JOURNALISTS BELIEVE THAT YAGER INDEED SIGNED THE COMMUNIQUE AND THAT IT IS AUTHENTIC.

THE ATTACK TENDS TO INTENSIFY THE IRE OF THOSE CITIZENS AND SECTORS WHO BELIEVE THAT HUMAN RIGHTS IS A PHONEY ISSUE IMPLANTED BY TERRORISTS AND DUPES. THE GOVERNMENT RELEASED INFORMATION ON THE THREE DEAD ATTACKERS, WHICH HELPED FUEL THESE FIRES. ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT, ALL HAD BEEN JAILED IN THE PAST AS TERRORISTS. ONE OF THE ATTACKERS REPORTEDLY BENEFITTED FROM THE RIGHT OF OPTION IN 1978, TRAVELING TO PERU. ANOTHER OF THE DEAD WAS REPORTEDLY DECLARED DISAPPEARED TO THE POLICE BY HIS FATHER IN 1976. THE THIRD TERRORIST REPORTED WAS FREED FROM JAIL IN 1973 UNDER THE AMNESTY GRANTED BY PRESIDENT CAMPORA. WE HAVE NO RECORD ON ANY OF THE INDIVIDUALS, BUT HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DELIBERATELY FABRICATING THESE ALLEGATIONS (LEAVING OPEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT THERE COULD BE THE USUAL ERRORS OF DETAIL IN POLICE INFORMATION). ONESOURCE TELLS US THE INFORMATION WAS RETRIEVED VERBATIM FROM POLICE COMPUTERS.

IN OUR PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS, GOVERNMENT MEMBERS CONTINUE TO DOWNPLAY THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURGENCE OF THE TERRORISM, PARTICULARLY AS IT MIGHT EFFECT THE POLITICAL PLANS OF PRESIDENT VIDELA AND GENERAL VIOLA. IN THIS REGARD, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT GENERAL LUCIANO MENENDEZ WAS SENTENCED TO 40 MORE DAYS OF DETENTION FOLLOWING LAST WEEK'S PUBLICATION OF HIS LETTER TO HIS FELLOW OFFICERS.

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2. (U) PRESUMPTIVE DEATH LAW CHALLENGED: THE LONG DELAYED CONSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTROVERSIAL PRESUMPTIVE DEATH LAW WAS MADE IN A BUENOS AIRES COURT NOVEMBER 12.

3. [REDACTED] MASSERA EMBRACES THE POSE: WHILE PRELATES RETURNING FROM ROME CONTINUE TO SEEK TO DILUTE THE IMPACT OF POPE JOHN PAUL'S RECENT DECLARATION ON

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HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN ARGENTINA, THE POPE HAS GOTTEN ON VOTE OF SUPPORT. FORMER JUNTA MEMBER ADMIRAL EMILIO MASSERA TOLD AN ARGENTINE MAGAZINE THAT "NO STATESMAN, NO PERSON IN GOVERNMENT, NO INTELLECTUAL" CAN IGNORE WHAT THE POPE SAID. MASSERA WENT ON TO AVER THAT "THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE ACTIVELY TAKEN UP BY THE POPE AND FREED FROM POLITICAL CONNOTATIONS WILL BE ONE OF THE MOST DYNAMIC DOCTRINARY ISSUES OF THE COMING DECADE." MASSERA WHO IS NOW PURSUING A POLITICAL CAREER AS A LIBERAL, WAS REPORTEDLY ASSOCIATED WITH MANY OF THE GROSSEST HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES WHILE NAVY COMMANDER.

4. (U) POLITICAL GATHERING BROKEN UP: IN THE PROVINCE OF CATAMARCA THE PERONIST FORMER GOVERNOR HUGO MOTT AND SEVERAL OF HIS COLLEAGUES WERE BRIEFLY ARRESTED WHEN THE AUTHORITIES BROKE UP A DINNER THEY WERE ATTENDING ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE MEETING VIOLATED THE BAN ON POLITICAL GATHERINGS. THIS INCIDENT ILLUSTRATES THE UNEVEN TEXTURE OF POLITICAL EVOLUTION IN ARGENTINA. IN BUENOS AIRES RECENTLY PERONIST AND RADICAL PARTIES HAVE HELD VERY PUBLIC AND VERY POLITICAL GATHERINGS WITHOUT POLICE INTERFERENCE.

5. (U) FEDERAL COURT ABSOLVES AND REDUCES SENTENCES: A FEDERAL COURT IN CORDOBA HAS REVERSED A LOWER COURT JUDGE WHO CONVICTED AND SENTENCED TWO WOMEN ON CHARGES OF VIOLATING THE NATIONAL SECURITY LAW. THE COURT
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ABSOLVED ON WOMAN ARGUING THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN PROVED THAT SHE HAD ANY CONNECTION WITH SUBVERSIVE GROUPS. IT FOUND THAT THE SENTENCE AGAINST THE SECOND WOMAN WAS EXCESSIVE AND REDUCED IT FROM FIVE YEARS AND SIX MONTHS TO FOUR YEARS AND SIX MONTHS. THE COURT UPHeld THE FIVE AND ONE HALF YEAR SENTENCES OF TWO OTHERS INVOLVED IN THE CASE. WHILE WE HAVE NO DETAILS ON THE CASE, THE APPEALS COURT DECISION APPEARS TO BE ANOTHER REFRESHING SIGN OF JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE.
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